

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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INFO SECDEF PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 115571

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, RP

SUBJECT:MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE PHILIPPINES

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. RECENT EXCHANGES ON THE ADVISABILITY OF PROVIDING T-28D AIRCRAFT TO THE PHILS POINT UP THE NEED FOR AN INTERIM CONSENSUS ON OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PHILIPPINES. AS LONG AS THE MUSLIM INSURGENCY CONTINUES AT ITS PRESENT LEVEL IT SEEMS LIKELY TO PRESENT BOTH DIFFICULT INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS FOR THE GOP. IT ALSO PRESENTS POTENTIAL INTERNAL PROBLEMS FOR THE U.S., WITH MANY AMERICANS CRITICAL OF ANY U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN OR SUPPORT OF COUNTER INSURGENCY OPERATIONS, AND MARCOS IS NOT WIDELY ADMIRER HERE. THE INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS ARE ALSO APPARENT, GIVEN MIDDLE EAST SENSITIVITY TO A STRUGGLE WHICH SEEMS INCREASINGLY COMMUNAL IF NOT RELIGIOUS IN CHARACTER.

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2. IN THE PARTICULAR CASE OF THE T-28D;S WE WERE ALSO UP AGAINST THE HARD FACT THAT THE MUSLIM INSURGENT AREAS PROVIDED THE MAIN LOGICAL TARGETS FOR THEIR USEFUL EMPLOYMENT. WE DO NOT SEE THE MAOIST DISSIDENTS AT THIS TIME OR IN THE NEAR FUTURE PRESENTING THE KIND OF CHALLENGE OR FOLLOWING THE TACTICS WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY INFANTRY SUPPORT AIR STRIKES.

3. ON THE OTHER SIDE WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE GOP HAS PRESSING MILITARY NEEDS, THAT IT URGENTLY SEEKS ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF AN APPARENT EXTERNAL MILITARY THREAT, OUR MAP ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN AND MUST BE ALIGNED TOWARD INTERNAL SECURITY OBJECTIVES. FURTHERMORE, A GOOD CASE CAN BE MADE THAT OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE, IN FACT, REPRESENTS PAYMENT FOR RENT FREE UTILIZATION OF OUR MILITARY BASES.

4. IT APPEARS OBVIOUS THAT FUTURE GOP REQUESTS FOR EQUIPMENT WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL AND EARLY SCREENING AS LONG AS THE MUSLIM INSURGENCY CONTINUES. OBVIOUSLY, WE CANNOT GREATLY CUT BACK ON A PHIL MAP PROGRAM OF SOME DOLS 15-20 MILLION AND OTHER HELP WITH EQUIPMENT WITHOUT DETRACTING FROM ITS VALUE TO THE AFP AND FROM ITS UTILITY AS A COUNTER IN OUR OVERALL BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE QUESTION THEN BECOMES WHETHER OR NOT WE CAN SEPARATE INTO TWO CATEGORIES THE TYPES OF EQUIPMENT NEEDED BY THE AFP, E.G. GENERAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT SUITABLE FOR A VARIETY OF MISSIONS WHICH WOULD NORMALLY BE PROVIDED TO BASIC MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS, AND IN CONTRAST, SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT PRIMARILY SUITABLE FOR LOCAL COUNTER-INSURGENCY PURPOSES.

5. WE CONCLUDE THAT HOWEVER ILL-DEFINED, THERE EXISTS A CATEGORY OF WEAPONS WHICH WE SHOULD NOT PROVIDE UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. WE HAVE, FOR INSTANCE, DENIED THE SALES OF MINI-TAT AND MINI-GUNS TO THE GOP, AND GENERAL USG POLICIES ALSO PROHIBIT THE EXPORT OF NAPALM. WHEN WE COME TO SUCH ITEMS AS T-28D;S AND OTHER AIRCRAFT WHICH, IN ADDITION TO OTHER FUNCTIONS, CAN BE CONFIGURED AND UTILIZED FOR COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS WE OBVIOUSLY HAVE A MORE DIFFICULT BALANCE TO STRIKE. AS A GENERAL  
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PROPOSITION, HOWEVER, U.S. INTEREST WOULD SEEM BEST SERVED AT THIS POINT BY TILTING THE MAP TOWARDS GENERAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT SIDE AND EXERCISING GREAT CAUTION IN AGREEING TO GOP REQUESTS FOR EQUIPMENT PRIMARILY USEFUL FOR COUNTER-INSURGENCY ACTIONS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 01 JUN 1974  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE PHILIPPINES CINCPAC FOR POLAD  
**TAGS:** MASS, RP  
**To:** MANILA  
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